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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
125TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1363, L.D. 1842, Bill, “An Act To Amend the Charter of the Bingham Water District ”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Amend the Charter of the Bingham Water District and To Direct That Certain Issues Be Studied'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

**'PART A**

**Sec. A-1. P&SL 1911, c. 13, §6, 2nd ¶** is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Each member is entitled to compensation as recommended by the trustees and approved by a majority vote of the municipal officers of the Town of Bingham and Concord Township. Certification of the vote must be recorded with the Secretary of State and recorded in the bylaws.

**Sec. A-2. P&SL 1911, c. 13, §6, last ¶** is amended to read:

The ~~said~~ water district, at any legal meeting ~~thereof~~ called for the purpose, may adopt such ~~by-laws~~ bylaws and provisions, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this ~~state~~ State and of the United States, as they ~~may deem~~ determine expedient and necessary for the good government and regulation of the municipal affairs of ~~said the~~ water district, ~~in which case, such by-laws.~~ The bylaws and provisions ~~so~~ adopted ~~shall~~ apply to ~~said the~~ water district as fully, ~~to~~ for all intents and purposes, as the other provisions of this act, subject to alterations and additions only by a ~~two-thirds~~ simple majority vote of the legal voters of ~~said the~~ water district present and voting at a legal meeting ~~thereof~~ called for the purpose.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**PART B**

**Sec. B-1. Public Utilities Commission to examine certain issues.** The Public Utilities Commission shall convene a stakeholder group to examine financial issues related to the loss of customers by water utilities and the effect the loss has on the utilities' ability to pay for infrastructure as well as the effects on remaining customers. The commission shall invite participation from a broad range of interested entities. The stakeholder group shall examine whether there are appropriate means by which contributions to system costs may be collected from customers who discontinue service or from property owners whose property has been served or may be served by the system and if so how the collection may be done in a manner that is just and reasonable. The group may also examine readiness-to-service charges and requirements to take service or other mechanisms and shall seek to develop appropriate models for addressing issues created by the loss of customers by water utilities. The commission shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, together with the commission's analysis of those findings and recommendations, and any proposals of the stakeholder group for changes to law to implement its recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February 15, 2013. The committee may report out a bill on the subject matter of the report to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.'

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**SUMMARY**

21 This amendment removes a provision of the bill that authorizes the board of trustees  
22 of the Bingham Water District to adopt a resolution that provides that the minimum  
23 charge for water service continues to apply to property that is voluntarily disconnected  
24 from the system.

25 This amendment directs the Public Utilities Commission to convene a stakeholder  
26 group to examine issues relating to the loss of customers by water utilities and the effect  
27 this has on the utilities' ability to pay for infrastructure and the effect on remaining  
28 customers. The commission is directed to invite participation from a broad range of  
29 interested entities. The stakeholder group is directed to examine whether there are  
30 appropriate means by which contributions to system costs may be collected from  
31 customers who discontinue service or from property owners whose property has been  
32 served or may be served by the system and if so how the collection might be done in a  
33 manner that is just and reasonable. The commission must report the findings and  
34 recommendations of the stakeholder group, together with any proposals for changes to  
35 law to implement the recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the  
36 Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February  
37 15, 2013. The committee is authorized to report out a bill on the subject to the First  
38 Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.